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# ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

## Report of the Secretary-General

## Addendum

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[19 August 1991]

1. The Soviet Union considers that the qualitative changes in world politics that characterize the transition from confrontation to broad cooperation open up good prospects for seeking new security formulas in various regions of the world, including the Middle East. Our conviction of this stems, in particular, from the talks and consultations recently held with the leaders of a number of countries in the region, in the course of which certain new points emerged in the positions of the sides which give grounds for hope of a more flexible approach to the search for ways of beginning the process of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

2. We also consider that a powerful impetus could be given to improving the climate in the region by the progressive normalization of the situation in the Persian Gulf. Drawing the appropriate lessons from the crisis, an immediate start must be made on the establishment of stable security structures in the region. In this connection, the implementation of initiatives which would make it possible substantially to reduce the level of tension in the Middle East would be of great importance.

3. We noted with great interest, in particular, the proposal by the President of Egypt, Mr. Mubarak, regarding the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction. This proposal, which takes into account the interconditionality of the elimination of various types of weapons of mass destruction from the region, is a development of the idea put forward by the General Assembly of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

4. As a consistent proponent of the establishment of nuclear-free zones, the Soviet Union considers that the creation of such a zone in the Middle East would make a considerable contribution to the emergence of a system of security and cooperation in the region, and would promote the strengthening of the international regime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. The regime for such a zone could provide for an obligation on the part of the States in the region to refrain from developing, producing or acquiring by any means nuclear explosive devices in any form anywhere within or beyond the limits of the nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, and also not to seek to obtain any assistance in producing or acquiring any types of nuclear explosive devices and not to permit their emplacement in their territories or in territories under their control. Accession of all countries in the region to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be of decisive significance in speeding up the process of establishing a nuclear-free zone.

6. Monitoring functions with respect to the observance by participating States of the status of such a zone could be assigned to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with which the countries of the region would conclude agreements on safeguards covering all their nuclear material in all their nuclear activities. In our view, the mechanism established under the agreements should ensure reliable international control of all materials produced, imported or stockpiled in the region at any time.

7. For its part, the Soviet Union considers it important to institute cooperation regarding the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East among the countries of the region, as well as among all concerned States which are not a direct part of the region but make an important contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability there.

8. We regard the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East as a process which would take place in stages, and consider that the nuclear Powers could as of now declare their intention of respecting the nuclear-free status of the zone and in this connection refrain from deploying or testing any type of nuclear explosive devices in the territory of the Middle East countries. It also seems to us that the permanent members of the Security Council could, depending on how the situation develops, begin discussing a set of guarantees for the countries participating in the nuclear-free zone.

9. At the same time, we are convinced that a direct link exists between the process of curbing the arms race in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-free zone, and the need for active steps towards a political settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. Successful progress in this direction would weaken the role of those factors which motivate the efforts of States in the region to build up their military arsenals.

10. A key role in the initiation of such a dialogue must unquestionably be assigned to the countries of the region. In particular, they could begin consultations on defining a set of necessary measures and possible mechanisms for putting them into effect.

11. In this connection, it would be important for the States of the region to take a new look at the role of the factor of military strength as one of the means of ensuring regional security.

12. A start could be made here by the adoption of regional measures for confidence-building and openness. Exchange of information on the capabilities and status of armed forces and their movements would reduce the perceived threat and lay the foundations for a progressive limitation and reduction of military arsenals to the level of reasonable sufficiency for defence purposes.

13. The nature of the confrontation in the region testifies to the fact that its nuclear-free status must be conditional upon the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction there.

14. Accordingly, we are counting on the countries of the region being among the first parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

15. It would also be important to make provision in the region for a regime to prevent the proliferation of the most destabilizing types of weapons, for limitation of the export of "sensitive technology" and for abstention from the manufacture or acquisition of ballistic missiles of more than a given range. Simultaneously, with a view to ensuring military balance, suitable limits on military air forces would also be established.

16. Any scheme for stabilizing the situation in the Middle East may prove ineffective in the absence of mutual restraint on the part of both the suppliers and the recipients of arms.

17. Obviously, the deployment of disarmament processes must be accompanied by the establishment of a well-developed and effective monitoring network.

18. As the European experience shows, a powerful impetus to the institutionalization of processes in a region and the establishment of reliable mechanisms for putting them into effect can be given through comprehensive discussion of the problems at the highest political level. It would seem appropriate to consider the question of the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East together with certain other aspects of disarmament within the framework of a possible Middle East peace conference, the organization of which is currently the subject of active diplomatic efforts.

19. The Soviet Union expresses its readiness to participate constructively in discussing any initiatives aimed at stabilizing the situation in the Middle East, and hopes that the measures taken in this connection will lead to the establishment of a system of peace and security in the region.

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